

For the Learner:

Learning mathematics is a lot like learning to ride a bike. You can't do it by watching someone else. You must hop on your bike, get ready, set, and go!

The **MVP** way of learning mathematics requires much of you, the student. The **classroom experience** has been carefully orchestrated to help you make sense of the mathematics that is being developed and connect it to prior learning. Each student must come to class prepared to participate fully in the experience. He or she must learn to listen to the thinking of the other classmates as well as be willing to voice one's own understandings and ways of seeing the mathematics unfold. Regular attendance is imperative because what happens daily in the classroom cannot be replicated at home or by reading the textbook.

The **Ready, Set, Go!** homework assignments have been correlated to the daily **classroom experience** and should be completed each day that they are assigned, so that you are prepared (**Ready**) for the next lesson. The homework is organized into three parts. The **Ready** section is to help you get **Ready** to learn. The **Set** section is for practicing the skills that are being developed in the current lessons. As you practice, your new mathematical skills become more **Set** or fluent. The last section of homework, called **Go!**, is to help you remember the skills and procedures that you have learned previously. As you mature mathematically, there are many math problems that you should be able to do whenever you encounter them. The procedures for solving them become automatic. When you see these problems, you should be able to take off and **Go!** with them.

If there are areas in the **Ready, Set, Go!** assignments where you feel uncertain and need guidance, follow the internet links at the end of the page. These links will take you to video lessons and print explanations and examples that relate to the problems on the specific **Ready, Set, Go!** assignment you are doing. Finally, pay attention to the topics you are studying. You can learn to search these topics to find your own websites and video lessons. The ability to learn from the internet will help you be successful in all of your classes.

One of the skills that a student doesn't usually associate with learning mathematics is **listening**. Most students know they should listen to the teacher, but often they don't realize that they can learn the most by listening to their classmates, when they are sharing how they think about the mathematics they are doing. In the **classroom**



experience, listening is a practice of learning. When you are listening to your classmates or your teacher, you should do the following:

1. Write down key ideas and strategies that you see other students using.
2. Ask questions of your classmates or the teacher to make sure that you understand the conversations about the mathematics.
3. Add your own ideas to the ideas of others.
4. Try to restate what you hear others saying. Ask, *“Is this what you mean?”*
5. Be flexible and understand that there are many ways to think about a math problem. You and your classmates might think differently and both be right.

